

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank Director George Elliot, Supervisory Examiner Ram Shukla, and Examiner Carla Myers for the courtesy of an in-person interview at the USPTO. Applicants were represented in the interview by Margaret B. Brivanlou, Kenneth H. Sonnenfeld, and Deborah L. Drazen who attended on March 7, 2007. During the interview, the Office Action mailed August 28, 2006 and the then pending claims from the amendment and response filed on February 28, 2007 were discussed. Proposed claim amendments relating to the rejections were presented. Applicants' representatives also discussed issues related to benefit of the priority application.

During a subsequent telephonic interview on March 14, 2007 between Examiner Carla Myers and Margaret Brivanlou, agreement was reached on proposed amendments to the claims so that the claims, in the Examiner's view, would be supported by the priority provisional application filed January 6, 2001. In particular, Examiner Myers stated that claims amended to recite isolated or purified oligonucleotides of at least 16 contiguous nucleotides from the portion of SEQ ID NO:1 that is delineated by the oligonucleotide primers 18F to 23R of Figure 1 would be entitled to the priority date of Applicants' provisional application. Examiner Myers indicated that the claims could be so amended by a Supplemental Amendment. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's helpful suggestions.